

REMARKS

This is a full and timely response to the outstanding non-final office action mailed August 14, 2003, the office action being responsive to communication(s) filed on RCE 25 July 2003. Entry of the amendments together with reconsideration and allowance of the application and presently pending claims are respectfully requested.

Present Status of Patent Application

Claims 1-18 remain pending in the present application.

A. Claim Objections

Statement of the Objection

Claim 14 was objected to because of the following informalities: Claim 14 is not a complete sentence. An 'and' should follow after "major surfaces" to make the claim one complete sentence.

Claim 15 was objected to because of the following informalities: "filing" should read as "Filling."

Response to the Objection

Claims 14 and 15 have been appropriately amended to rectify the informalities. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of objection to claims 14 and 15.

B. Claims 1-18 Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) and 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

Statement of the Rejection

Claims 1, 7-9, 12-15, and 18 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Tseng *et al.* (U.S. Patent No. 6,562,640 B1).

Claims 2 and 3 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Tseng *et al.* (U.S. Patent No. 6,562,640 B1) in view of Takiar (U.S. Patent No. 6,177,288 B1).

Claims 4-6, 10-11, and 16-17 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Tseng *et al.* (U.S. Patent No. 6,562,640 B1) in view of Jacobsen *et al.* (U.S. Patent No. 6,555,408 B1).

Response to the Rejection

Applicants include herewith the declaration of the joint inventors pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.131, attesting that the joint inventors had completed the invention prior to the earliest effective priority date, i.e., August 23, 2000 of the Tseng patent. Consequently, pursuant to MPEP 715.04 and *In re* Carlson, 79 F.2d 900, 27 USPQ 400 (CCPA 1935), Applicants submit that the Tseng reference cannot be used to form a rejection of the claims of the present application.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1-18, and further request that these claims be allowed.

Prior Art Made of Record

The prior art made of record has been considered, but is not believed to affect the patentability of the presently pending claims.

CONCLUSION

In light of at least the reasons set forth above, Applicants respectfully submit that all rejections have been traversed, rendered moot, and/or accommodated, and that the now pending claims 1-18 are in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and allowance of the present application and all pending claims are hereby courteously requested. If, in the opinion of the Examiner, a telephone conference would expedite the examination of this matter, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned at (770) 933-9500.

Respectfully submitted,



P. S. Dara, Reg. No. 52,793